Research process and report writing
Alison Gillwald, Research ICT Africa

DOC ICT Training August 2012
‘Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.’ --- Gene Fowler
Research process

- Idea
- Problem/question/hypothesis
- Design
- Process
- Evidence
- Results findings
Moving from opinion to analysis

- Summarize your problem, topic, knowledge.
- Evaluate your personal response, and analyzing the text.
- Analyze the parts of your topic and then examine how these parts relate to each other or to the whole.
- Break the whole into parts so that you might see the whole differently.
- In process of analysis, you find things that you might say.
- Synthesize look for connections between ideas. You may have some observations that at first don't seem to gel. Or you may have read various critical perspectives, all of them in disagreement with one another, consider whether these
Writing style

- Each sentence should be a sentence.
- Each paragraph should be a paragraph.
- Use active not passive voice.
- Do not use obviously, foolishly etc.
- Semicolons are like guns never use them unless you’ve been trained to.

Following standards
- Be consistent in style, particularly referencing.

Adapted from Kirkland in readings
Research process

- Identify research problem
- Research question
- Conduct desk study/literature review
- Develop conceptual framework/methodology
- Data gathering - primary and secondary data
- Analysis
- Findings
Report outline/contents

- Executive summary (main findings from each section)
- Introduction/Background (problem statement)
- Research problem/hypothesis/research area
- Literature - comparative research, indices, domestic research, indicators
- Legal and institutional framework
- Macro economic analysis/impact
- Financial analysis
- Telecom - Fixed, Mobile, Internet - indicators - supply side/demand side/
- Broadcasting -free-to-air: public, private, community; Subscription; Digital
- Broadband - International bandwidth, backbone and backhaul networks
- Postal - post offices/agencies, labour forces, letters, courier services
- Spectrum - Auctions, LTE
- Analysis - linkages between components, patterns
Telecommunications Regulatory Environment

- Market Entry
- Regulation of QoS
- Regulation of Anti-Competitive Practices
- Universal Service Obligation (USO)
- Scarce Resources
- Interconnection & facilities
- Tariff Regulation

Source: Research ICT Africa 2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>NRI Ranking</th>
<th>Environment Readiness</th>
<th>Overall Government Usage</th>
<th>Overall Business Usage</th>
<th>Overall Individual Usage</th>
<th>Overall Overall Usage</th>
<th>Global Overall Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>